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THE SITUATION IN AFGHANISTAN AND ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-first year

Letter dated 16 October 1996 from the Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of Afghanistan addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from the Government of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, I have the honour to submit the following as the recently adopted position of the Supreme Military Council for the Defence of Afghanistan pertaining to the current extremely tense situation in and around Kabul, the capital.

The Supreme Military Council for the Defence of Afghanistan, while having the ability to enter and liberate the capital city of Kabul, is avoiding entering the city in order to prevent civilian casualties and further destruction of the capital, and declares the following:

The Islamic State of Afghanistan would observe an immediate ceasefire under the following conditions:

1. The Taliban forces must evacuate the capital immediately.

2. Their heavy weapons must be withdrawn to a distance further than the range of their heavy artillery.

3. Kabul must be recognized as a demilitarized zone.

4. A police force should be formed under the supervision of the United Nations and the Organization of the Islamic Conference to ensure the security of Kabul.

5. Negotiations should start to pave the way for the formation of an interim government of national unity in the capital city of Kabul.

It is my earnest expectation that you will instruct Dr. Norbert Holl, the head of the United Nations Special Mission for Afghanistan, to undertake immediate consultations, on your behalf, towards obtaining the consent of the Taliban to avoid further complication of the situation.

I deem it necessary for you to also use your good offices and exert efforts aimed at bringing about appropriate pressure on the Taliban through their supporters to secure a general agreement on the proposed ceasefire.

I request you to instruct that the present letter be distributed as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 39, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Abdul Rahim GHAFOORZAI
Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs